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# The Fabian Society.

ESTABLISHED 1883.

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1914.  
PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING ON 22ND MAY, 1914.

THE chief development of the year under review has been the establishment of increasingly close relationship with the other British Socialist Societies.

## SOCIALIST UNITY.

At the instance of the International Bureau proposals for a Conference under its auspices were considered in the autumn of 1912, but no date convenient to the members of the Bureau could be arranged, and the matter was deferred.

On July 18th an informal Conference of delegates from the Independent Labor Party, the British Socialist Party, and the Fabian Society was held at the Fabian Office at the request of the Bureau. M. Vandervelde, Chairman of the International Bureau, was the Chairman, and the Secretary, M. Huysmans, was also present. After a friendly discussion it was unanimously agreed:

1. That a United Socialist Council be formed, composed of representatives from the three Socialist organizations, the powers and duties of the Council to be subsequently defined.
2. That all organizations affiliated to the United Socialist Council must be affiliated to the Labor Party.

On December 13th, at the request of the International Bureau, a more formal Conference was held at Clifford's Inn Hall, attended by the members of the Bureau, representing the Socialist parties of twenty different countries, and the Executive Committees of the three British Societies.

After a general discussion, the Conference was temporarily suspended, and the British delegates held separate consultations, eventually meeting together under the chairmanship of Sidney Webb, when the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:

That in view of the desirability of securing Socialist unity on the basis of common action with the Labor Party, this conference requests the representatives of the three bodies to lay before their members the question of putting forward a proposal to the Labor Party Conference in 1915, permitting any candidate who may wish it to describe himself as a Labor and Socialist candidate.

That joint meetings be arranged at which representative speakers of the three organizations should take part for the purpose of promoting Socialist unity, and a joint committee of three members (including the secretary) from each organization be appointed as soon as possible to make the arrangements.

These were reported to the Conference when it resumed, and were received with much enthusiasm. After congratulatory speeches the Conference terminated.

In order to promote the object of the Conference, it was decided to hold a number of large meetings under the joint auspices of the Independent Labor Party, the Fabian Society and the British Socialist Party. For this purpose a temporary committee representing the three bodies was appointed with the title of the Socialist Unity Demonstration Committee. This body organized well attended demonstrations at Cardiff, Newcastle, Glasgow, Leeds and London. The Fabian speakers were Mrs. Webb, Sidney Webb, Bernard Shaw, H. H. Schloesser and W. Stephen Sanders.

#### JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE I.L.P. AND FABIAN SOCIETY.

The activities of this Committee have this year been limited, owing to the concentration of the I.L.P. on its Coming of Age Campaign. Nevertheless, the Committee organized a successful Conference at Barrow House in July, which gave a useful opportunity for the whole of the National Administrative Council of the I.L.P. and most of its organizers to meet in friendly discussion a large number of Fabians; and, by arrangement with the National Committee for the Prevention of Destitution, issued its own edition of "The Case for the National Minimum," a handbook giving facts and arguments in support of the proposals advocated by the Committee in its War Against Poverty Campaign. Several Bills drafted by the Committee, embodying these proposals, were introduced by the Labor Party in the House of Commons during the last session.

Last summer an educational scheme was inaugurated, under which I.L.P. Branches and local Fabian Societies were urged to form study classes. The Joint Committee, through the agency of C. M. Lloyd, undertook the whole organization of this scheme, preparing syllabuses on Economics, Local Government, Trade Unionism, Co-operation, and Industrial History, and collecting a staff of lecturers or class leaders (many of whom were members of the Fabian Society). A good deal of difficulty was naturally experienced at the outset, but the scheme on the whole has been a success. Between fifty and sixty classes in different parts of England, Scotland, and Wales have been at work during the autumn and winter, the number of students ranging in each case from half a dozen to forty or more. The I.L.P. Branches are anxious that these classes should become a permanent institution, and a reorganized scheme is being proposed which, it is hoped, will develop presently into a national education department of the Socialist movement. But more funds are urgently needed for this important work.

#### THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

In October the Research Department was given the status of a regular Group. The members elected an executive composed of G. D. H. Cole, Mrs. Bernard Drake, R. P. Farley, H. D. Harben, W. S. Sanders, Mrs. G. R. S. Taylor, Miss Beatrice Thompson, Mrs.

Townshend, Sidney Webb, with Mrs. Sidney Webb as Chairman, H. J. Gillespie, Hon. Sec., and W. Mellor, Secretary. The Department now numbers 178 members, and there are in addition 98 "consultative" non-members, to many of whom the Department is indebted for valuable assistance in those parts of the various enquiries about which they had special knowledge. In order to enable the greatly extended work to be carried on, a special fund was raised among members of the Society and sympathizers interested in Social Research in itself, or in one of the problems that the Department is actually investigating.

A successful Conference was held in July at Barrow House under the auspices of the Committee on the Control of Industry, which was attended by representative Trade Unionists, Co-operators and advocates of Syndicalism, "Labor Co-Partnership," Profit-sharing, and the "Self-Governing Workshop."

At this Conference it was decided to take as the next subject of enquiry the whole field of Social Insurance, with a view eventually to defining the sphere of insurance in a Socialist community. A Special Committee was appointed, of which Sidney Webb undertook the responsibilities of chairmanship. It was thought best, in view of the fact that the Government was apparently preparing for a further amendment of the National Insurance Act during 1914, to concentrate for the first six months on discovering how that measure was actually working, and what was happening to the various classes of persons included in its operation. The results of this investigation were published as an Interim Report in a supplement to the *New Statesman* of March 14th, and attracted considerable attention. This Committee is now investigating (a) the methods, results, and social value of the work of the Industrial Insurance Companies, and other forms of Death or Funeral Benefit, and (b) Workmen's Compensation Insurance.

The original Committee on the Control of Industry has not allowed itself to be eclipsed by its younger rival. A draft of the first part of its Report on the experience of all the various forms taken by the Control of Industry "by and in the interests of the producers" appeared as a supplement to the *New Statesman* in February. This Report is probably the most comprehensive survey yet attempted of the various endeavors all over the world to organize industry on the basis of Associations of Producers. The draft of the second part of the Report, dealing with the experience of organizations "by or in the interests of the consumers" (voluntary associations), will appear shortly. The outstanding feature of this will be a valuable conspectus of the Co-operative Movement throughout Europe, and particularly of its success in Germany in combining efficient management with effective democratic control and no small share of participation in management by the producers themselves.

In the last Annual Report it was anticipated that the output of this Committee would constitute a book rather than a pamphlet. It now appears that it will be a library rather than a book; for, in addition to the publications mentioned above, the following have

been arranged for during the ensuing twelve months, namely : Part 3 of the Report, dealing with the experience of State and Municipal Organization of Industry ; Part 4, which will be devoted to the attempts by Trade Unions and Professional Associations to control the industries by which they live ; and Part 5, giving the Committee's general conclusions and its forecast of the inevitable partnership between Consumers and Producers. Moreover, from the material collected relating to Trade Unionism all over the world, arrangements have been made for the early publication of separate volumes on Trade Unionism in Germany, by W. S. Sanders ; on Trade Unionism in France and Belgium, by C. M. Lloyd ; and on Trade Union Structure in Great Britain, by G. D. H. Cole, W. Mellor and H. J. Gillespie.

#### "THE RURAL PROBLEM."

The Report of the Committee on Land and Rural Problems was drafted by the Chairman (H. D. Harben) during the summer, and was published early in August as a Supplement to the *New Statesman*. This arrangement enabled it to secure priority to several other "Reports" on the same subject, and gave it a wide circulation amongst the class of people whom it is most important to reach.

Some months later the Report was published, through Constable & Co., as a half crown volume, and in this form it is a valuable compendium of facts and theories relating to the most prominent political question of the near future.

The book has been published on behalf of the Society, but it was arranged that accounts should not be settled till the autumn of 1914, and therefore no item for the cost appears in this year's accounts. A large number of members availed themselves of the offer of copies at a reduced price if ordered before publication, and altogether the sum of £23 14s. 6d. net has been received, which has been carried forward as a debit to meet the sum due to the publishers in the event of the cost of production exceeding their receipts from sales. We are informed that up to the end of the year under review the sales were satisfactory.

#### MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

Only sixteen meetings—two less than in 1912-13—have been held in the past year, because during the special series of lectures at the King's Hall, elsewhere referred to, the number was reduced to one a month.

The attendance of members was somewhat scanty in the autumn, but it improved later on, partly because the practice of sending invitation cards with the News was adopted, and partly because the series on "What Socialism means to me" proved attractive and led to lively discussions.

One of these lectures, that by A. Clutton Brock, dealing with Socialism and Art, will shortly be published as a Tract.

Of the unclassified lectures, one on German Industrial Organization, by W. Stephen Sanders, has been printed as a Supplement to the *New Statesman*, and two others, "Foreign Policy," by R. C. K.

Ensor, and "The Economic Foundation of the Women's Movement," by Miss Mabel Atkinson, will be published as Tracts. Of the other lectures it may be recorded that Mrs. Perkins Gilman attracted a large audience, which listened to a brilliant discourse, whilst the lectures by Graham Wallas and Wm. Poel were worthy of the reputations of the speakers.

The Annual Meeting was mainly occupied with a discussion on electoral policy, which arose on the Annual Report.

The December Business Meeting passed a long series of resolutions on the Dublin Crisis and discussed Women's Suffrage and other subjects.

The February Business Meeting was chiefly devoted to an inconclusive debate on the place of Research in the work of the Society.

The list of meetings was as follows :—

#### "WHAT SOCIALISM MEANS TO ME."

Dec.	12.	I.	...	...	...	...	...	...	H. J. GILLESPIE
Jan.	9.	II.	...	...	...	...	...	...	A. CLUTTON BROCK
Feb.	6.	III.	...	...	...	...	...	...	A. D. LINDSAY
March	6.	IV.	...	...	...	...	...	...	F. LAWSON DODD

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

April	4.	"Industrial Organization in Germany"	...	W. STEPHEN SANDERS
April	18.	"Social Motive"	...	GRAHAM WALLAS
May	2.	"A General Strike Against War"	...	DR. MARION PHILLIPS
June	6.	"The Economic Independence of Women"	...	MRS. PERKINS GILMAN
June	20.	"Socialism and Sport"	...	JACK GIBSON
Oct.	17.	"Socialism and Foreign Policy"	...	R. C. K. ENSOR
Nov.	14.	"The Minority Report of the Divorce Commission"	...	EARL RUSSELL
Jan.	23.	"The Economic Foundation of the Women's Movement"	...	MISS MABEL ATKINSON
March	20.	"Theatres for the People"	...	WILLIAM POEL

#### MEMBERS' MEETINGS.

May	23.	Annual Meeting.	
Dec.	5.	Business Meeting.	The Dublin Crisis and the Labor Party Conference.
Feb.	20.	Business Meeting.	The Research Department.

#### COURSE OF LECTURES AT KING'S HALL.

A course of lectures, entitled "Socialism Restated," were given by Mr. and Mrs. Webb on Tuesdays, October 28th to December 2nd, at King's Hall, Covent Garden. The subjects dealt with were "Socialism and Economics," "Socialism and Equality," "Socialism and Politics," "Women and Socialism," "Socialism and Empire," and "Socialism, Science and Religion." The lectures were attended by large audiences, and on several evenings it was impossible to accommodate all applicants for seats. The chairmen at the meetings were Bernard Shaw, M. Emile Vandervelde (leader of the Belgian Socialist Party), Dr. Ludwig Frank (Social Democratic Member of the German Reichstag), Granville Barker, and the Rev. R. J. Campbell. A syllabus of the lectures, together with a special circular explaining the objects of the Society and containing a list of Fabian publications, was sent by post to 32,000 persons. The financial result of the lectures was very satisfactory, a substantial

sum being added to the funds of the Society, considerable sales of literature being made, and some additional members being attracted.

#### RECEPTION TO M. ANATOLE FRANCE.

M. Anatole France having expressed the desire to meet and address a small gathering of British Socialists under the auspices of the Society during his visit to England, a meeting was arranged at short notice at the Galleries of the Society of British Artists on December 11th. Invitations were sent to the members of the Executive Committees of the I.L.P. and the British Socialist Party, Labor Members of Parliament, and other well known Socialists, many of whom were present. There was a crowded audience. Bernard Shaw occupied the chair, and M. Anatole France gave an address, in which he confessed and defended the Socialist faith. H. M. Hyndman and J. Keir Hardie, M.P., also spoke as representatives of the B.S.P. and I.L.P. respectively. After the speeches an informal reception took place.

#### TRACT PUBLICATION.

The sales of our Tracts have really been larger this year than last, as 4,000 less were sent free to members, and last year 7,000 were given away in special circumstances. Receipts for Tracts show a considerable decline, but the cash received during the year happened to bear a much higher ratio to the Tracts sold than is usually the case.

The most successful of the new Tracts were "The Nationalization of Mines Bill," by H. H. Schloesser, of which several Miners' Unions took large blocks, and "Profit-Sharing and Co-partnership," by Edward R. Pease. Of the former 9,920 and of the latter 6,130 were distributed, both figures including the copies sent to members.

The demand for the Biographical Series started in 1912-13 continued nearly as good as in the year of publication, and it is intended to add to this Series in the near future. Half the cost of the valuable but highly technical Tract on "Public *versus* Private Electricity Supply," by C. Ashmore Baker, was paid by the Research Department.

Six penny Tracts and three Leaflets have been withdrawn or sold out during the year, and our list of publications in the numbered series now stands as follows:—

	3d.	2d.	1d.	Leaflets	Total
Tracts of previous years ...	1	12	53	9	75
" 1913-14 ...	—	1	4	—	5
	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 57	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 80

The new Tracts published are:—

- No. 170. "Profit-Sharing and Co-partnership: A Fraud and a Failure?" By EDWARD R. PEASE. In cover, 1d.  
 No. 171. "The Nationalization of Mines and Minerals Bill." By HENRY H. SCHLOESSER. 1d.  
 No. 172. "What about the Rates? Or Municipal Finance and Municipal Autonomy." By SIDNEY WEBB. In cover, 1d.



No. 173. "Public *Versus* Private Electricity Supply." By C. ASHMORE BAKER. 1d.

No. 174. "Charles Kingsley and Christian Socialism." By COLWYN E. VULLIAMY. Biographical Series, No. 5. In cover, 2d.

The number of Tracts and Leaflets sold and distributed during recent years is as follows:—

Year ending March	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
Tracts ... ..	58,882	64,518	87,368	68,302	73,187	89,229
Leaflets ... ..	8,453	15,740	17,235	29,850	23,040	31,760
TOTALS ... ..	67,335	79,740	104,603	98,152	96,227	120,989
Receipts ... ..	£120	£196	£171	£192	£173	£260
Cost of Printing	156	237	241	363	219	269

TABLE OF TRACTS PRINTED AND ISSUED DURING YEAR 1913-14.

Price.	Stock 1 April, '13.	Printed during year.	Total.	Stock 31 Mar., 1914.	Distributed during year.	Cost of Printing, Binding, etc., during year.	Proceeds of Sales (estimd.)	Estimd. Sale Value of pre- sent stock.
1s.	307	—	307	300	7	—	—	£1
3d.	960	—	960	630	330	—	3	5
2d.	20,419	8,150	28,569	17,986	10,583	40	30	60
1d.	118,579	48,181	166,760	118,798	47,962	115	84	110
Leaflets	27,633*	1,000	28,633	20,180	8,453	1	3	4
Totals	167,898*	57,331	225,229	157,894	67,335	£156	£120	£180
1912-13	181,987	69,201	251,188	171,448	79,740	£238	£196	£200

\* 3,550 were withdrawn.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure on publications through Mr. A. C. Fifield:—

	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts from Publisher...	15	25	42	76	56	280	—
Estimated Sales at Office	15	25	22	22	25	25	25
Paid to Publisher ...	3	58	16	60	149	135	179

"THE NEW STATESMAN."

Officially the Society has no connection with this enterprise, but the publication of a weekly journal, edited by one member of the Executive Committee and directed by others who

## Abstract of Accounts for Year

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	1913.	£	s.	d.
TO RECEIPTS DURING YEAR, viz. :—											
Subscriptions from Members	...	1,023	0	0				1,067	18	8	
Do. Special	...	260	0	0				195	0	0	
Do. from Associates	...	63	7	4				90	4	2	
Do. from Non-Members and	...										
Sundry Receipts	...	37	17	2				47	11	0	
		<hr/>			1,384	+	6				
Sale of Literature, etc. (including	...										
£35, estimated proceeds of sale	...	198	17	10½				279	18	0½	
of volumes)	...										
Do. Volumes by Fifield	...	12	0	0				25	2	7	
		<hr/>			210	17	10½				
Advertisements	...				27	11	1	36	19	10	
Royalties	...				4	19	1	8	17	10	
Book Box Fees	...				49	18	6	106	5	6	
Book Boxes and Library :—											
Books sold, or lost and paid	...										
for, etc.	...				1	12	8	1	3	0	
Suburban and Provincial Lectures :											
Grant	...	34	10	0				86	8	4	
Sundry Receipts	...	7	6	4				1	6	0	
		<hr/>			41	16	4				
Annual Conference :—											
Contributions towards expenses	...				6	0	0	7	0	11	
by Local Societies	...										
Surplus on King's Hall Lectures	...	242	14	10				262	1	11	
Do. Other Meetings...	...	70	8	2				3	19	5	
Do. Soirée	...	3	17	0							
		<hr/>			317	0	0				
Summer School :—											
Balances (Capital and Working)	...										
brought forward	...	119	0	8½							
Receipts at School	...	754	1	8½							
Balance carried forward	...	2	19	2¾							
		<hr/>			876	1	7¾				
Interest on Bank Deposits...	...				5	8	2				
BALANCE at Debit of Society, 31st											
March, 1913 :—											
Sundry Creditors	...	116	16	10½							
Less Sundry Debtors	...	6	2	6¾							
Bank Balance	...	33	12	4¾							
		<hr/>			83	4	5¾				
		<hr/>						188	16	2	
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have been prominently connected with the Society from its earliest days, cannot be passed over without mention. The *New Statesman* stands for the policy, as interpreted by its editor and the many contributors who are members, of the Fabian Society; and as a means of bringing our political and social opinions before a wide public it easily surpasses all our recent undertakings. But, in addition, it has been of direct service to the Society. The draft reports on the Rural Problem, on the Control of Industry, and on German Trade Unions have already been issued as *New Statesman* supplements, and it has been a valuable medium for advertising our special courses of lectures and our publications amongst its wide circle of readers.

#### BOOK BOXES AND LIBRARY.

In the summer of 1912 the office staff spent a large amount of time in addressing wrappers to Trade Union Branches, to which in the early autumn the Book Box Prospectus was sent, and the result was a larger number of subscriptions than for many years past.

The summer of 1913 was occupied, not less usefully, in the preparation of some 32,000 addressed envelopes for circulars of the King's Hall series of Lectures, and, in the absence of advertisement, the applications for our Boxes has fallen off by more than half.

The Executive Committee has decided to arrange for the addressing of FABIAN NEWS by means of an addressing machine, and when this plan is in working order the office staff will be able to devote time throughout the year to making known our Book Boxes and Publications.

The table of subscriptions is as follows:—

	Year ending	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
I. L. P. Branches ...	...	12	26	24	43	52	45
Local Fabian Societies ...	...	1	2	9	9	9	11
Other Socialist Bodies ...	...	2	5	14	14	19	33
Co-operative Societies ...	...	33	26	21	17	27	24
Trade Unions ...	...	21	93	20	26	19	15
Trades Councils ...	...	3	6	6	2	5	2
Miscellaneous ...	...	25	50	32	39	42	31
		<hr/> 97	<hr/> 208	<hr/> 126	<hr/> 150	<hr/> 173	<hr/> 161

The decline in applications from Socialist bodies noticed last year has made further progress. In 1908 no less than 116 Socialist organizations subscribed; this year the number is 15. How much of this may be ascribed to the increasing issue of very cheap books, how much to the provision of their own libraries by Socialist Societies and Clubs, and how much to a decline in the intellectual activity of the average Socialist cannot be definitely determined.

The use made by members and associates of the Library has also decreased. Last year 177 members borrowed 524 books; this year 151 members borrowed 348. A few years ago borrowing was at the rate of 1,000 volumes a year.

The Select Catalogue, about to be reprinted, will soon be sent to members of the Society, and it is hoped that this may lead to greater use by members of our valuable Library.

#### THE LABOR PARTY.

Two amendments to resolutions were sent to the Annual Conference in Glasgow. One dealing with details of the Housing problem was virtually adopted. The other, advocating opposition to the Plural Voting Bill in the absence of any provision for franchise for women, was defeated by a very large majority.

W. Stephen Sanders was elected, on the nomination of the Executive Committee, as a member of the Labor Party Executive, taking the place of Edward R. Pease, who desired to retire after serving continuously since the formation of the Party in 1900.

In October it was decided, in view of the approach of the General Election, to ask the members for promises of subscriptions for the election expenses of such Fabians as might stand as candidates in connection with the Labor Party. The response has not so far been large enough to warrant action being taken.

#### ANNUAL FABIAN CONFERENCE.

The Annual Conference of the Executive Committee with the delegates from the local Fabian Societies and local and subject groups was held on Saturday, July 5th, at Clifford's Inn Hall, and was attended by fifty-three delegates, comprising fourteen members of the Executive Committee, twenty-one delegates from provincial societies, eight from university societies, two from London local groups, and eight from subject groups. The Conference discussed and approved a number of suggestions concerning the scope and work of a local Fabian Society, which were afterwards embodied in a circular and sent to all the local societies. Resolutions with regard to the Research Department, Housing, Freedom of Speech, Woman's Suffrage, the Civil Service, Grants in Aid, the School Age and Half Time, Labor and Socialist Representation, the Labor Press, Workmen's Compensation, and other matters were discussed. On the evening before the Conference a largely attended social gathering was held at the Passmore Edwards Settlement, at which Granville Barker gave a reading.

#### PROVINCIAL AND SUBURBAN LECTURES.

No provincial or suburban lecture courses were arranged during the past year, but instead single lectures were given under the auspices of local Fabian Societies by members of the Executive Committee and others, including Mrs. Webb, St. John Ervine, H. H. Schloesser, Lord Russell, H. D. Harben, Mrs. Pember Reeves, Emil Davies, and W. Stephen Sanders. Bernard Shaw addressed large meetings at Ipswich and Gravesend.

#### OTHER LECTURES.

Lectures have been given to Independent Labor Party Branches, Suffrage Organizations, Literary and Debating Societies, and other

bodies by members of the Society. Several debates with representatives of the Anti-Socialist League have been held under the auspices of local Fabian Societies and other organizations. Prominent members of the Society have also given lectures on Fabian subjects to societies which made arrangements direct with them and not through the office. In the provinces a considerable amount of lecturing has been carried on by local Fabian Societies, the lectures being given in most cases to meetings organized by other bodies.

#### THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

The second season at Barrow House, Keswick, was a considerable improvement upon the first, largely owing to the exceptional interest of the two Conferences with which the session opened in the last two weeks in July. The weather was a complete contrast with that of the previous year, being exceptionally fine throughout the whole period of the School. Altogether 267 different persons attended, as compared with 166 in 1912. The first Conference was organized by the Committee of Enquiry on the Control of Industry, and the following subjects were discussed: "The Present State of Trade Unionism in England," "Syndicalism," "Co-operative Production," "Profit-sharing," "The Co-operative Movement," and "State and Municipal Ownership." The second Conference was held under the auspices of the Joint Committee of the Independent Labor Party and the Fabian Society. The members of the National Administrative Council of the I.L.P. attended and held their business meetings at the School. The Conference discussed: "The Relation between Political Action and Trade Unionism," "The Nationalization of Mines and Railways," "Municipal Free Services and Municipal Trading," and "The Land: Scope of Nationalization." Sidney Webb gave a lecture on "Japan." The usual Summer Session commenced on August 3rd. The lecturers and subjects were as follows: Frederic Keeling, "The Organization of Casual Labor" (2) and "Child Labor Regulation"; Miss Anna Martin, "Mothers v. Committees"; A. G. Walkden, "Railway Nationalization: Lessons from the Continent" (3); Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., "White Capital and Colored Labor"; Dr. M. Greenwood, "Eugenics"; St. John G. Ervine, "Socialism and the Drama"; Charles A. Parker, F.R.C.S., "The Socialist, the Doctor, and the Insurance Act"; Major D. Strachan, "Universal Military Training"; Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C., "The Insurance Act and After" (2); Cyril Scott, "Modernism in Art" (2); E. R. Pease, "Socialism in Foreign Countries."

The Directors were Sidney Webb, Mrs. Sidney Webb, E. R. Pease, S. K. Ratcliffe, and F. Lawson Dodd. Miss Hankinson, as manager, contributed largely to the success of a long, and at times crowded, session.

#### SUBJECT GROUPS.

The Sixth Annual Report of the Women's Group, for the year ending December 31st, 1913, was issued last February. It may briefly be summarized and brought up to date as follows. Lectures in con-

nection with the Present Economic Condition of Women Series have been given by Miss Bondfield on "The Life of a Shop Assistant"; Miss Sara Cave on "The Life of a Tailoress"; Miss Elspeth Phelps and Miss Talbot on "The Life of a Dressmaker"; Miss Courtauld on "Women in Agriculture"; Miss Rayner on "Women in Horticulture"; and Miss Howarth and Miss Alice Smith on "The Life of a Cotton Operative." Mrs. Herbage Edwards spoke on "The Economic Position of the Women of Japan," and on "The Reorganization of Domestic Work. The outcome of the second lecture was the formation of a sub-committee to consider the question further. Besides the above lectures, two discussions were held at the Caxton Hall. The first, opened by Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, was on "The Child: State and Parental Responsibility." The second, on "National Care for Maternity and its relation to the Amendments of the Insurance Act," was opened by Miss Margaret Bondfield. Messrs. Routledge have published the Group's first volume of Essays dealing with the economic condition of women, which is entitled "Women Workers in Seven Professions." It is edited for the Studies Committee by Professor Edith Morley, and is based on lectures given to the Group in 1912 by women engaged in the professions described. The Group also prepared the supplement to the *New Statesman* on "Women in Industry," which was issued in February last. Pamphlet No. IV. of the Fabian Women's Group Series, on "The Economic Foundations of the Women's Movement," is now in the press and will very shortly be published by the Society. The Right to Work Sub-Committee have been mainly engaged upon the enquiry as to what proportion of women and girls are working for the support of others besides themselves. The enquiry is now closed, and a full report on the results obtained will be issued as soon as possible. Two resolutions were sent to the London County Council protesting against the Council's decision to limit the work of married women as cleaners in its service, and against the dismissal of its women medical officers on marriage. The Suffrage Sub-Committee has sent speakers to address various meetings arranged by the I.L.P. and the Women's Labor League. The Group was represented by Dr. Fairfield at the Women's Freedom League Demonstration in Trafalgar Square, and took part in the Women's Suffrage demonstration in Victoria Park organized by the Poplar Trades and Labor Council. In September the Group became affiliated to the National Union of Women Workers.

The Fabian Nursery has held periodical meetings at which lectures and discussions have taken place. The subjects dealt with included "The World as we want it," "The World as it is," "The Artist under Socialism," "Social Organization," "Industrial Organization," "Government Organization," and "Political and Industrial Action." Meetings were also addressed by Bernard Shaw and Edward Carpenter. Members of the Nursery have given addresses to I.L.P. branches and other organizations.

The Education Group has carried on periodical meetings, at which the following subjects have been dealt with: "The Problem

of University Education in London," by Sidney Webb ; "The Teaching of Homecraft," by Miss Cleghorn ; "Psychic Analysis and Education," Dr. Eder ; "Education and Social Efficiency," by F. Kettle. A crowded meeting was held at Caxton Hall, at which Bernard Shaw spoke on "Education and the Drama."

The Social Committee arranged a series of social gatherings, at which new and old members have been brought together and recruits informed of the various activities of the Society by addresses given by members of the Executive.

#### PROVINCIAL AND UNIVERSITY SOCIETIES.

Fabian Societies have been formed during the year at Dundee, Sunderland, Luton, and Altrincham. The societies at Cambridge, Chiswick, Huddersfield, Loughborough, and Newcastle-under-Lyme have become extinct. The number of provincial societies is now thirty-three, and those connected with universities eleven. The Fabian Societies at Montreal and Toronto, Canada, and Christchurch, New Zealand, are still active, and have sent in reports during the year.

The University Fabian Societies are now all affiliated to the University Socialist Federation, which has carried on an energetic intensive campaign during the year for strengthening the organization of the Socialist movement in universities and other seats of learning. The Federation has issued the second number of the magazine, the *University Socialist*, and held its first Annual Conference at Barrow House in April, 1913, which was highly successful.

#### LONDON LOCAL GROUPS.

The Clapham Group has held a series of meetings, open to the public, at which lectures and discussions took place. The Hampstead Group, together with the Hampstead Trade Council, organized a large public meeting, at which addresses were given on "Strikes, Trade Unionism, and the Vote." The Paddington and Marylebone Group has carried on a series of meetings, and the Streatham Group organized occasional gatherings. A new Group has been formed for the Crystal Palace District, and has held several meetings.

#### STATISTICS OF MEMBERSHIP.

The following table indicates the changes in membership during the past year :—

	London.	Provincial Societies.	Provinces elsewhere.	University Societies.	Abroad.	Total.
Men ...	767	243	360	449	94	<b>1913</b>
Women ...	562	61	127	92	31	<b>873</b>
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1329</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>2786</b>
1913 ...	1271	472	456	477	128	2804
Increase ...	58	—	31	64	—	—
Decrease	—	168	—	—	3	18



We have to go back to 1904 in order to find the last decrease in the membership of the Society; but it will be observed that the whole of it is attributable to decline in Provincial Fabian Societies, and this is probably connected with the cessation of our provincial lecturing, which again is dependent on the fact that the trust fund used for this purpose for a long period was virtually exhausted a couple of years ago. The London membership, which declined in the previous year, shows a substantial increase, and it is satisfactory that the University membership shows considerable increase.

The number of members elected during the year was 297, a reduction of 18 on the previous year. Removals by death, resignation, and default amounted to 315, an increase of 117 on 1912-13, and almost exactly the same as 1911-12. The number of associates is 310, a decrease of 13 on the year; but the decrease in the number of associates of the London Society is much greater. More than half the associates are attached to the university societies. The number of members of provincial societies who are not members of the London Society is about ~~200~~ <sup>200</sup>.

#### SPEAKERS' CLASS.

The Speakers' Class, inaugurated in 1912, was continued on similar lines at the Fabian Office. Six lessons were given in voice production by a professional teacher, followed by four lessons in practical propaganda by W. Stephen Sanders. Several members of the class held in 1912 and 1913 have given lectures for the Society.

#### THE LATE HUBERT BLAND.

We cannot omit reference to the death of one of the oldest and most distinguished of our members, although it occurred a fortnight after the close of the year under review. Hubert Bland was one of the small group who founded the Society over thirty years ago. He was Treasurer of the Society from its start until 1910, and a member of the Executive Committee for the same period. Through all these years his literary ability and his political sagacity were freely and constantly given to its service. His chief contribution to our publications was his share in Fabian Essays, in which, with remarkable foresight, he outlined the future of political Socialism in England. No Fabian Tract stands in his name, but two of them, "After Bread, Education," and "Socialism and Labor Policy," were edited and partly written by him, and many others benefited by his criticism. Approaching Socialism from an intellectual standpoint different from that of the majority of Socialists, his influence did much to maintain in the Society detachment from political party and concentration on the cause of Socialism.

#### OFFICIAL CHANGES.

After serving as Secretary of the Society for twenty-four years, since 1890, when the Society emerged from its amateur status, Edw. R. Pease resigned the post at the end of 1913.

On receipt of the resignation, the Executive Committee passed the following resolutions:—

"The Executive Committee receive, with the greatest regret, the resignation by E. R. Pease of his post as Secretary of the Society; they appreciate the generosity of the form in which this resignation has been tendered; they place on record their deep sense of the devoted services rendered by him to the Fabian Society in the cause of Socialism for the past twenty-four years; and they express the hope that this resignation will not involve any severance from the work of the Society."

"The Executive Committee unanimously request E. R. Pease to accept the post of Honorary Secretary for the time being."

E. R. Pease agreed to act as Honorary Secretary and to attend to some departments of the Society's work as before.

W. Stephen Sanders, who had acted as Organizing Secretary since 1907, has been appointed General Secretary in succession to E. R. Pease.

#### FINANCE.

The financial results of the year's work are more satisfactory than last year. Subscriptions from members show an increase, and, in addition, a good many payments to the Parliamentary Fund were received, which are carried forward as a debit due from the Society.

Receipts from Literature and Book Boxes have fallen off, but profits from Special Meetings, a very uncertain source of revenue, are larger than before.

These increases, together with a reduction in payments for salaries owing to official changes elsewhere referred to, have allowed the payment of the outstanding account of £50 to the printer, and have reduced the balance at debit from £189 to £83. It should be observed that this balance consists of contingent liabilities and balances carried forward, and all accounts actually due have been paid.

The Summer School Account shows that half the loan of £200, borrowed for purchase of furniture and household goods, has been repaid out of the year's working, and the sum of £100 has been put on deposit to meet the half-year's rent due in May. As a similar sum was put away in like manner last year, the item does not appear in the accounts.

CLIFFORD ALLEN.  
MABEL ATKINSON.  
ETHEL BENTHAM.  
EMIL DAVIES.  
F. LAWSON DODD.  
R. C. K. ENSOR.  
ST. JOHN G. ERVINE.  
HENRY D. HARBEN.  
SUSAN LAWRENCE.  
C. M. LLOYD.

EDWARD R. PEASE.  
MARION PHILLIPS.  
MAUD REEVES.  
W. STEPHEN SANDERS.  
HENRY H. SCHLOESSER.  
CLIFFORD D. SHARP.  
CHARLOTTE F. SHAW.  
HARRY SNELL.  
SIDNEY WEBB.  
BEATRICE WEBB.

C. M. WILSON.

*Executive Committee for the year 1913-1914.*



